



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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For immediate release

EU and Pacific Leaders Discuss Future Relations

Apia, Samoa - The Director for Asia, Central Asia, Middle East/Gulf and the Pacific at the European Commission's Department for International Cooperation and Development, Pierre Amilhat today held discussions with Pacific leaders in the margins of the 48th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting on priorities and modalities to best organise future relations when the current Cotonou Agreement expires.

The ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, was concluded for a 20-year period from 2000 to 2020. Since 2000, it has been the framework for EU's relations with 79 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). In 2010, ACP-EU cooperation has been adapted to new challenges such as climate change, food security, regional integration, State fragility and aid effectiveness.

Director Amilhat said: *"The EU and the Pacific are longstanding partners with increasingly shared interests such as, climate change, ocean governance or to put the Sustainable Development Goals into practice. We have made good progress today in identifying common priorities and agreeing for further strengthened political relations in the future. I am convinced that our converging vision and mutual interests will make our negotiation easier and smoother next year and that the final result will be the most valuable and effective for both Europe and the Pacific region. "*

With its member states, the EU has committed around €800 million to the Pacific ACP countries and to the region's four Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) for the period 2014-2020 under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). Our work focuses on resilience, climate change, sustainability, economic growth, gender equality and regional integration.

(ENDS)

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"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".